(b) Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to free their land of encroachments as per provisions contained in the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and Railways Act, 1989.

(c) and (d) Involvement of railway officials in land grabbing has not been established or reported so far.

Replacement of old rail tracks in Tamil Nadu

699. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is a need to evaluate and assess the strength of rail tracks between Madurai and Dindigul and Madurai and Virudhunagar since these rail tracks are many decade old;

(b) if so, whether Government proposed to replace those weak rail tracks laid many decades ago leading possibilities for any mishap in those railway lines of Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Regular assessment for strengthening of rail tracks between Madurai and Dindigul and Madurai and Virudhunagar are being done and action being taken on priority basis.

(b) Replacement of rails is being planned as per requirement in phased manner.

(c) In Madurai-Dindigul section, about 28 km of rails have been replaced during the current year and further replacement of rails is in progress. In Madurai-Virudhunagar section also rail renewal is in progress.

(d) Does not arise.

Revision of railway freight

700. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on and from February 1, 2009 classifications of chemical manures, foodgrains, flours and pulses have been revised for the purpose of revision of railway freight;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) why such increase in freight has been announced through administrative order on the eve of placement of Railway budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Classification of Main Commodity Head 'Chemical Manures' and 'Foodgrains, Flours and Pulses' has been revised from Class-120 to Class-130.

(c) Revision of freight rates is an ongoing exercise and is being done throughout the year as and when required.